

MAN AND WOMAN ERR—BUT IT'S WOMAN WHO PAYS WITH HEART AND SOUL

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Because of their overwhelming love for each other a man and woman forget mate, home and children and the moral laws which should have kept them apart. This story is as old as Launcelot and Guinevere or Tristan and Isolde or Francesca and Paul da Rimini. In this latest instance of forbidden passion, the man's name is James M. Colwell, the woman's Mayme Jarvis, and they live in Evansville, Indiana.

The man's wife and the woman's husband discovered that they were betrayed. So Jarvis got a divorce and his former wife, besides bearing forever the scarlet mark, will be permitted to see her children only once a week.

But Mrs. Colwell did not divorce her husband and thereby permit him to right the wrong he had done another woman. She forgave him and presumably the Colwells will live happily ever afterwards with nothing but the ghost of a dead love and a woman's forfeited honor between them.

Once more it has been demonstrated that there are still women alive who accept the comfortable old tradition that to err is manly and to forgive FEMININE. The double standard of morals continues to entail a double standard of penalties or, as they say in melodrama, the woman pays, the man escapes.

Now why does the woman pay in love? Because she doesn't pay in any other way; because, till women scourge the money-changers from the temple of love, till they become economically independent and refuse to make their emotions a source of income they will not be the equals of men, no matter how many privileges they have and how many presidents and governors they vote for.

In the Evansville case, Mrs. Colwell forgave her husband. He represent-

ed her means of livelihood. But Jarvis refused to forgive his wife and divorced her because she was not so economically necessary to him as Colwell is to the home he supports.

I know that women very seldom say to themselves cold bloodedly, "I must forgive this man because I will be more comfortable as his wife than I would be with a few dollars of weekly alimony." But that is why husbands are forgiven, nevertheless.

Till all women are self-supporting before marriage and every woman not a young mother after marriage, men will go on sinning and being forgiven. They will sin because they know they can get away with it. The Meal Ticket like the King can do no wrong.

But the woman who is maintained by a man must live according to the laws laid down for her. If she doesn't there is no motive of self-protection to urge forgiveness upon the husband.

There is one thing having to do with such sin which we are not very apt to consider in weighing the responsibility of its victims (all sinners are victims). It is that infidelity in marriage is often a consequence and not a cause of domestic unhappiness. A man may err because for years he has had no joy in his household; a woman turns for consolation to another man because her husband has long since extinguished the lump of love in her soul by bullying or petty fault finding, by personal slovenliness, by all the domestic tyrannies which change the once god-like lover into the turnkey of the domestic jail. In far too many homes love is slowly tortured to death. It never dies suddenly. No matter how many promises a man makes his fidelity lasts only so long as his love lasts. Men claim, of course, that love may outlast fidelity, they tell inexperienced women that it is possible to love and